

[*English*]

**External Commercial Borrowings by  
Private Sector Companies**

\*661. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased  
to state :

(a) whether there has been a sharp rise  
in external commercial borrowings at a high  
rate of interest by various private sector  
companies and MRTP houses during last  
three years ;

(b) if so, the details of commercial  
borrowings by private sector and MRTP  
companies from external sources during the  
last three years ;

(c) whether prior permission of Reserve  
Bank of India or Government is necessary  
in each case and if so, whether there have  
been some cases in which permission of RBI  
was not sought ;

(d) the impact of such borrowings on  
the foreign exchange reserves ; and

(e) Government's approach towards  
commercial borrowings by private sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND  
NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF  
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
(SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b) The  
external commercial borrowings sanctioned  
to private sector companies including MRTP  
companies during the last three years are  
given as under :

| Year    | (Rs. crores) |
|---------|--------------|
| 1984-85 | 411.29       |
| 1985-86 | 318.42       |
| 1986-87 | 361.74       |

(c) to (e) Prior approval of the  
Government is necessary for all external  
commercial borrowings which have a  
maturity exceeding 180 days. In such  
cases, following Government's approval  
Reserve Bank of India gives the necessary

permission under Foreign Exchange Regula-  
tion Act, 1973 before the loan can become  
operational. A cautious approach is adopted  
in the policy of external commercial borro-  
wing which, inter alia, takes into account  
the need for such borrowing and keeping the  
debt service burden within prudent limits.

**Indo-Soviet Joint Space Research**

\*662. SHRI PRKASH V. PATIL :

SRRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased  
to state :

(a) whether the Soviet Union has offered  
to augment its help to India to improve  
space technology for scientific purposes ;

(b) if so, what is the offer like ; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNO-  
LOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN  
DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY,  
ELECTRONICS & SPACE (SHRI K. R.  
NARAYANAN) : (a) Active cooperation  
between India and the USSR in Space  
Technology is nearly fifteen years old.  
Recent meetings between India and Soviet  
teams have identified a number of areas  
where cooperation would be mutual interest.

(b) and (c) The areas identified for  
possible cooperation on mutual discussions  
include—remote sensing, space sciences and  
satellite aided search and rescue missions.

**Loans for Buses Purchased Benami**

\*663. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased  
to state :

(a) whether the benami buses detected  
recently by the Delhi Transport Corporation  
were purchased by operators with the help  
of bank loans ;